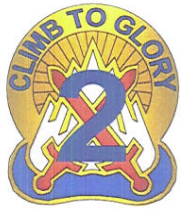




COMMANDER
Headquarters, 2BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI)
10100 N. Riva Ridge Loop
Fort Drum, NY 13602



December 19, 2008

Dear Command Soldiers and families,

With the holiday season upon us, I want to pause and thank you for what you do and the sacrifices you make. This season is a time to look back over the past year, recognize our accomplishments and be thankful for what we have now. It is also a time set goals and a path for the coming year.

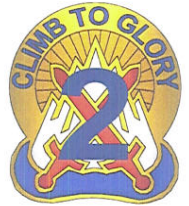
This time last year the BCT had just returned from a hugely successful 15 month deployment and the holidays were highlighted with reunion of family and friends. Since then, the BCT has gone through 70% change in personnel, nearly 100% changes of command at all levels and we reset 100% of our equipment. We've also established first class physical fitness programs and conducted a year long training plan including individual, leader and collective training which culminated at the Joint Readiness Training Center in proven BCT proficiency. Through all this we've re-established the finest Family Readiness Groups.

Today, we are the most trained and ready BCT in the Army. We remain the Army's Global Response Force (GRF) and Homeland Defense Brigade (HLD) - prepared to respond on short notice anywhere in the US or the world when directed by the National Command Authority. We will remain the GRF until the June timeframe unless called upon sooner. What does this mean for us in the coming year? You all have heard the news of reducing forces in Iraq and most recently the news of the need for at least 3 more brigade size units in Afghanistan between now and this summer. While it is possible that our BCT could be tasked for this, our senior leadership has not yet determined what units will fill these requirements (Army and Marine units are being considered). I think it is more likely that we, as the GRF, will be reserved for situations that are more the nature of an unexpected crisis requiring relatively rapid response - in Afghanistan, Iraq or anywhere else in the world. As soon as we have definitive information on our role (if any) in these missions we will inform the entire command. If we are not called out before our GRF mission ends in June, we are scheduled to replace 3 BCT / 10th MTN in Afghanistan around this time next year.

The training we have planned this year will build on our current proficiency and both prepare us to replace 3 BCT next year, and be fully ready if called sooner as the GRF. From January through March, our battalions will conduct "Off Post Training" south of the snow line to refine individual through platoon skills. In May, the BCT will go to the field at FT Drum and conduct company level live fires



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and other collective training. In July we'll return to the Joint Readiness Training Center for an Afghanistan mission rehearsal exercise. We'll take block leave in August. September and October will see individual training and equipment shipping. Late October or early November we'll have a short block leave and then be ready to deploy.

Meanwhile, my expectations remain the same as last spring before we assumed the GRF mission. We must stay focused on fitness and executing the basics to standard so we are ready whenever we are called. CSM Montour and I appreciate your tolerance during our GRF duties. The very nature of the mission means there will always be some degree of uncertainty in our future. The command will do all we can to keep this to a minimum.

We've had a great year and I am excited about serving by your side in the coming one. You - Soldiers and families are the core of the Commando Brigades strength and your physical and spiritual well being is what allows us to excel. Please take time during the holidays to exercise both. It is truly a blessing to serve with you. From both the Miller and Montour families, we wish you the very best over the holidays and the entire new year!

Sincerely,

David M. Miller
COL
United States Army